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Case: 1:24cv612

DeAndre D. Currington AIS269990
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Dale County Jail
P O Box 279
Ozark, AL 36360

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA SOUTHERN DIVISION

DEANDRE CURRINGTON,)
Plaintiff,)
v.) CASE NO. 1:24-cv-612-ECM-JTA
COMMANDER JUNEAU, et al.,)
Defendants.)

RECOMMENDATION OF THE MAGISTRATE JUDGE

I. INTRODUCTION

Plaintiff DeAndre Currington, an inmate at the Dale County Jail in Ozark, Alabama, proceeding pro se, filed this action using this Court's standard form for complaints brought under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Doc. No. 1. Plaintiff also moves to proceed *in forma pauperis* under 28 U.S.C. § 1915. Doc. No. 2. For the reasons below, the undersigned Magistrate Judge RECOMMENDS that Plaintiff's motion (Doc. No. 2) be DENIED and that his Complaint (Doc. No. 1) be DISMISSED without prejudice.

II. DISCUSSION

Under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g), a prisoner may not bring a civil action *in forma pauperis* if he "has, on 3 or more prior occasions, while incarcerated or detained in any facility, brought an action or appeal in a court of the United States that was dismissed on the grounds that it is frivolous, malicious, or fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, unless the prisoner is under imminent danger of serious physical injury." 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g). Consequently, an inmate in violation of the "three strikes" provision of §

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1915(g) who is not under "imminent danger" of serious physical injury "must pay the full filing fee at the time he *initiates* suit." *Dupree v. Palmer*, 284 F.3d 1234, 1236 (11th Cir. 2002) (emphasis in original). The Court should therefore dismiss a prisoner's complaint without prejudice when it "denies the prisoner leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* pursuant to the three strikes provision of § 1915(g)." *Id*.

Plaintiff has filed many civil actions in federal court while incarcerated. Review of court records establish that Plaintiff has accumulated at least three strikes under § 1915(g). See Currington v. Blackwell, Civil Action No. 1:15-cv-533-WKW-SRW (M.D. Ala. 2015) (dismissed under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(ii) for failure to state a claim for relief); Currington v. Soltys, Civil Action No. 1:23-cv-157-RAH-CSC (M.D. Ala. 2023) (dismissed under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b)(1) as malicious); and Currington v. Olson, No. 1:23-cv-457-ECM-KFP (M.D. Ala. 2023) (dismissed under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(i) as frivolous). These summary dismissals place Plaintiff in violation of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g).

Since Plaintiff has three strikes, he cannot proceed *in forma pauperis* unless his Complaint shows that he was in "imminent danger of serious physical injury" at the time of filing. In assessing whether a plaintiff satisfies this burden, the Court looks at whether the Complaint, as a whole, alleges such imminent danger. *See Brown v. Johnson*, 387 F.3d 1344, 1350 (11th Cir. 2004); *O'Connor v. Sec'y, Fla. Dep't of Corr.*, 732 F. App'x 768,

¹ Available at https://pacer.login.uscourts.gov.

² This Court may take judicial notice of its own records and the records of other federal courts. *Nguyen v. United States*, 556 F.3d 1244, 1259 n.7 (11th Cir. 2009); *United States v. Munoz*, 112 F.4th 923 (11th Cir. 2024).

770-71 (11th Cir. 2018) (explaining that facts must not be asserted in a vague or conclusory manner and must show that the inmate-plaintiff was in imminent danger of serious physical injury at the time he filed his complaint). "General allegations ... not grounded in specific facts . . . indicat[ing] that serious physical injury is imminent are not sufficient to invoke the exception to § 1915(g)." *Niebla v. Walton Corr. Inst.*, No. 3:06CV275/LAC/EMT, 2006 WL 2051307, *2 (N.D. Fla. July 20, 2006) (citing *Martin v. Shelton*, 319 F.3d 1048, 1050 (8th Cir. 2003).

Plaintiff files suit against Chris Juneau, Dustin Folk, and Michael Bryant of the Ozark Police Department. Plaintiff alleges that in June 2022 Officer Folks supplied false information to a Magistrate Judge to obtain an arrest warrant for Plaintiff, Defendants used excessive force to arrest him, and Defendants' actions caused him to be falsely imprisoned. Doc. No. 1 at 2–3. The Court has reviewed the claims in the Complaint. Even construing all allegations in favor of Plaintiff, his claims do not entitle him to avoid the bar of § 1915(g) because, as a whole, they do not demonstrate he was under "imminent danger of serious physical injury" when he filed this action as is required to meet the exception to application of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g). See O'Connor v. Backman, 743 F. App'x 373, 375 (11th Cir. 2018) (citing Brown, 387 F.3d at 1350); Medberry v. Butler, 185 F.3d 1189, 1193 (11th Cir. 1999) (holding that a prisoner who has filed three or more frivolous lawsuits or appeals and seeks to proceed in forma pauperis must present facts sufficient to demonstrate "imminent danger" to circumvent application of the "three strikes" provision of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g)); Lewis v. Sullivan, 279 F.3d 526, 531 (7th Cir. 2002) (explaining that the imminent danger exception is available "for genuine emergencies," where "time is pressing," "[w]hen a threat or prison condition is real and proximate," and "when the potential consequence is 'serious physical injury."").

Consequently, Plaintiff's motion for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* is due to be denied and this Complaint is due to be dismissed without prejudice under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g).

III. CONCLUSION

Accordingly, the undersigned Magistrate Judge RECOMMENDS that:

- 1. Plaintiff's motion for leave to proceed in forma pauperis (Doc. No. 2) be DENIED.
 - 2. Plaintiff's Complaint (Doc. No. 1) be DISMISSED without prejudice.

It is further ORDERED that by **October 30, 2024**, the parties may file objections to this Recommendation. The parties must specifically identify the factual findings and legal conclusions in the Recommendation to which objection is made. Frivolous, conclusive, or general objections will not be considered by the Court. The parties are advised that this Recommendation is not a final order and is therefore not appealable.

Failure to file written objections to the Magistrate Judge's findings and recommendations in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1) will bar a party from a de novo determination by the District Court of legal and factual issues covered in the Recommendation and waive the right of the party to challenge on appeal the District Court's order based on unobjected-to factual and legal conclusions accepted or adopted by the District Court except on grounds of plain error or manifest injustice. *Resol. Tr. Corp.*,

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v. Hallmark Builders, Inc., 996 F.2d 1144, 1149 (11th Cir. 1993); Henley v. Johnson, 885 F.2d 790, 794 (11th Cir. 1989); 11th CIR. R. 3-1.

DONE this 15th day of October, 2024.

JERVSHA T. ADAMS

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE